

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services
11 State House Station
2 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.: (207) 624-7900; Toll Free: (877) 680-5866
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay); Fax: (207) 287-5282

MEMORANDUM

TO: Child Care Providers

FROM: Office of Child and Family Services

DATE: February 8, 2022

SUBJECT: American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Child Care Stabilization Grants Update

Congress approved the Child Care Stabilization Grants appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) (Public Law 117-2) signed into law on March 11, 2021. The nationwide funding includes \$23.975 billion in additional funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). The funds are being used to provide grants to child care providers to assist in stabilizing child care across the nation. Maine received \$73 million in Child Care Stabilization Grant. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) is distributing the grants for 12-months to child care providers to help stabilize and support child care in Maine.

The first four installments of grant payments have been distributed. Currently, 87% of all eligible licensed programs have been awarded the grant. Through a monthly random sample of awarded programs and individual conversations, OCFS has compiled a list of allowable uses for funding reported by programs. OCFS is sharing the list in hopes it may assist your program in determining how best to utilize your awarded funds.

- Child Care Tuition:
 - Reduction in private pay tuition (children not receiving subsidy)
 - Not charging for closures due to COVID
 - Covering cost of owed private pay tuition (children not receiving subsidy)
- Staff recruitment and retention
 - Sign-on bonuses
 - Retroactive hazard pay for staff that worked throughout the pandemic
 - Increased staff wages
- Staff benefits
 - Paid sick leave
 - Health care insurance
 - Professional development

For questions or more information please contact ARPACChildCareGrants.DHHS@Maine.gov